

## Polek, Jim

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**From:** Keener, Bill  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2014 3:53 PM  
**To:** Rao, Kate  
**Cc:** Whitson, Amelia;Greenberg, Ken;Mogharabi, Nahal;Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** FW: Press Inquiry - Santa Clara Waste Water

My response to the Ventura County Start reporter, based on Amelia's research...thanks!

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**Bill Keener**

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA - Region 9  
San Francisco, CA  
Phone: (415) 972-3940

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**From:** Keener, Bill  
**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2014 3:52 PM  
**To:** 'Wilson, Kathleen'  
**Cc:** Mogharabi, Nahal  
**Subject:** RE: Press Inquiry - Santa Clara Waste Water

Kathleen, after checking in with our Water Division, the Los Angeles Regional Water Board is probably the best agency to respond to your inquiry – they permit both the City of Oxnard (its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit) and the Santa Clara Waste Water facility (for non-NPDES waste discharge requirements for groundwater discharges and statewide industrial stormwater general permit coverage). Contacts at the LA Water Board are: Cris Morris ([Cris.Morris@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Cris.Morris@waterboards.ca.gov)) and David Hung ([David.Hung@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:David.Hung@waterboards.ca.gov)).

While the EPA would not normally have been cc:d on the City of Oxnard's Cease & Desist letter to the Santa Clara Waste Water facility (SCWW), which you forwarded to us, we do receive annual reports of violations/exceedances from that facility (due in March every year). However, because of the recent explosion, our office has been corresponding with the LA Water Board, and they did send us a copy of that Cease & Desist letter.

The LA Water Board has informed us that SCWW is locally permitted by the City of Oxnard to discharge wastewater to Oxnard's treatment plant. SCWW is a categorical industrial user under the Centralized Waste Treatment category, subject to the pretreatment standards at [40 CFR 437.47](#) and technically-developed local pretreatment limits designed to protect the treatment plant from pollutants that would interfere with treatment processes or result in violations of Oxnard's NPDES permit. Oxnard states in the Cease & Desist letter that they exceeded their "maximum daily effluent limit for Gross Beta radioactivity". There's no federal categorical limit for gross beta, but you could confirm with the LA Water Board whether Oxnard's permit limit for gross beta is based on a Los Angeles Region Basin Plan standard.

I hope this helps. I looped on this email in our press officer for Southern California, Nahal Mogharabi, 213-244-1815, who works out of EPA's Los Angeles office. Please let her know if you need anything else.

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**Bill Keener**

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**From:** Wilson, Kathleen [<mailto:KWilson@vcstar.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, November 24, 2014 12:12 PM

**To:** Keener, Bill

**Subject:** Press Inquiry

Hi Bill,

I am working on a story about a high level of gross beta found in wastewater in Oxnard, Calif., which was traced to waste that the city receives from the Santa Clara Waste Water Co. The company near the town of Santa Paula, Calif., has been in the news because a truck exploded last week causing injuries and evacuations. I know of no connection but am looking at the company's record.

I am trying to get educated on what the high concentration of gross beta means. I have been told that the EPA only permits 50 parts per million and this was measured at 4,400. Could someone call me to inform me on what your regulations allow and the significance of what was found? Any implications? Were you informed of this?

My deadline is 5 p.m. Monday (today).

Thanks for your assistance.

Regards,

Kathleen

Kathleen Wilson  
Staff Writer

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